

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of manufacturing a filling material, comprising the steps of:
obtaining down;
washing the down in accordance with a predetermined washing process to produce prepared down;
obtaining Lyocell fiber;
blending the prepared down with the obtained Lyocell fiber in accordance with a predetermined blending process to produce the filling material.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the blending step is carried out by blending the prepared down 70% by weight with 30% by weight Lyocell fiber.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the washing step is carried out by the sub-steps of:
 - (a) washing the down with hot soapy water;
 - (b) rinsing the down with hot water;
 - (c) rinsing the down with cold water;
 - (d) drying the rinsed down; and
 - (e) dedusting and cooling the dried down.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the drying sub-step is carried out by drying 40 pounds of washed down for substantially 20 minutes at a temperature of substantially 220 degrees Fahrenheit
5. The method of claim 3, wherein the dedusting and cooling sub-step further includes injecting ozone into the down.
6. The method of claim 3, wherein the dedusting and cooling sub-step is carried out utilizing a screened centrifuge.

7. The method of claim 3, wherein each of the washing and two rinsing sub-steps further includes applying the down to a centrifuge cycle.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the blending step is carried out by the sub-steps of:

- (a) washing the down with hot soapy water;
- (b) rinsing the down with hot water;
- (c) adding the Lyocell fiber to the washed and rinsed down to produce a mixture;
- (d) rinsing the mixture with cold water;
- (e) drying the rinsed mixture; and
- (f) dedusting and cooling the dried mixture.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the rinsing the mixture sub-step includes applying the rinsed mixture to a centrifuge cycle, and repeating the rinsing and centrifuge cycles multiple times.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein the adding sub-step is carried out by adding 30% by weight Lyocell fiber to the washed and rinsed down.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein the drying sub-step is carried out by drying substantially 40 pounds of the rinsed mixture for substantially 20 minutes at a temperature of substantially 200 degrees Fahrenheit.

12. The method of claim 8, wherein the dedusting and cooling sub-step includes injecting of ozone into the dried mixture.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the blending step is carried out by a dry process.

14. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of filling a pillow with the produced filling material.

15. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of filling a comforter with the produced filling material.

16. A filling material, comprising:
down; and
Lyocell fiber blended with the down.

17. The filling material of claim 16, wherein the filling material includes 70% by weight of the down and 30% by weight of the Lyocell fiber.

18. The filling material of claim 16, wherein the down includes a minimum of 75% new down cluster.

19. A pillow, comprising:
a blend of down and Lyocell fiber; and
a pillow filled with the blend of down and Lyocell fiber.

20. A comforter, comprising:
a blend of down and Lyocell fiber; and
a comforter filled with the blend of down and Lyocell fiber.